

For each question from 1 to 10, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer.
(10 marks)

1. _____ the dreadful pain in my tooth, I had to work the night shift at the factory.
 (1) Except
 (2) Despite
 (3) However
 (4) Although
 (2)
2. ^{extra info} ~~Car~~ (like his classmates) _____ Physical Education lessons. He does not like Art and Craft that much.
 (1) enjoy
 (2) enjoys
 (3) has enjoyed
 (4) have enjoyed
 (2)
3. I realised the carpet dealer had _____ me for a ride. The carpet that I bought from him was inferior in quality. *pa perf*
 (1) take
 (2) took
 (3) taken
 (4) taking
 (3)
4. The teacher caught ~~David~~ and _____ vandalising the wall.
 (1) I
 (2) we
 (3) me
 (4) she
 3 (2)
5. Neither Mrs. Au nor her son _____ strawberries, so do not buy any for them.
 (1) like
 (2) liked
 (3) likes
 (4) liking
 (3)
6. By signing the contract, you agree to abide _____ all the terms and conditions.
 (1) to
 (2) by
 (3) for
 (4) with
 (2)

7. They _____ on this project for the past few weeks and are in the process of putting the finishing touches to it.

- (1) work
- ☒ (2) had worked
- (3) are working
- (4) have been working

(4)

8. _____ the support of her parents, Mary would not have passed the examinations.

- (1) Except
- (2) Despite
- (3) Without
- (4) Besides

(3)

9. _____ the students had a map, they would not lose their way.

- (1) If
- (2) Until
- (3) While
- (4) Unless

(1)

10. Raymond _____ to school by the time the postman ^{Don} arrived.

- ☒ (1) goes
- (2) went
- ☒ (3) has gone
- (4) had gone



(4)

For each question from 11 to 15, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer.
(5 marks)

11. "Do not wait _____ for me. I'll be home late tonight," Mrs. Koh told her husband.

- (1) in
- (2) up
- (3) on
- (4) out

(2)

12. This picture can be easily _____ to make it look very different from its original by using this latest software.

- (1) falsified
- (2) distorted
- (3) smudged
- (4) plagiarised

(2)

13. The vintage building was _____ to its original state after extensive renovation.

- (1) reduced
- (2) restored
- (3) reformed
- (4) renovated

(2)

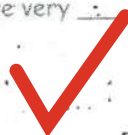
14. In 1876, the African Flu pandemic _____ nearly a third of the population in Kenya.

- (1) wiped off
- (2) wiped out
- (3) wiped away
- (4) wiped down

(2)

15. People who are drunk always claim that they are very _____ when in fact, they are not even able to walk properly.

- (1) tame
- (2) calm
- (3) sober
- (4) relaxed



(3)

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word(s). (5 marks)

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A huge wave crashed upon the ship and I lost consciousness.

When I awoke, I found Tommy attempting to (16) stem the flow of blood from a laceration on my arm. A few drops of blood (17) trickled onto the sand, but the wound was not deep. I learned from Captain Ritz later that we appeared to be the only survivors, (18) marooned on an uninhabited, remote island.

I was feeling (19) dejected, to say the least. Our only supplies were sunk in deep water, and it had been raining (20) unceasingly for the past three hours. I was cold and pessimistic, and starting to sense the first pangs of hunger.

Then Tommy yelled excitedly, "Look up there! Coconuts!"

16. (1) diminish
(2) lessen.
(3) stanch
(4) terminate
17. (1) dripped
(2) overflowed
(3) poured
(4) spouted
18. (1) abandoned
(2) deserted
(3) isolated
(4) stranded
19. (1) despicable
(2) despondent
(3) discontented
(4) dreary
20. (1) continuously
(2) eternally
(3) frequently
(4) repeatedly

(4) 3

(1)

(4)

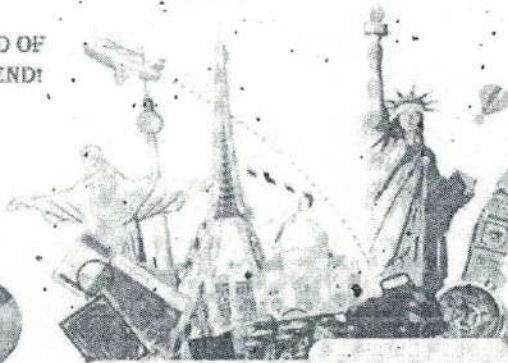
(2)

(1)

OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE A WORLD OF
WONDER AND EXCITEMENT THIS WEEKEND!



Join us in this biennial
extravaganza of fun...



Travel 2015

Venue: Suntec Convention Hall 401

Dates: 14-15 April 2015

Time: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- Booths set up by overseas exhibitors
- Cultural performances from different countries
- Special promotions and discounts on travel packages
- Exciting entertainment programs

Miss Vivian Tay, renowned local blogger, will be sharing her travel stories and photographs on 14 April at 7 p.m. Do join us to get some valuable travel tips!

Here are some excerpts from her travel blog on her Egypt trip:

City of a Thousand Minarets

Cairo, nicknamed "The City of a Thousand Minarets" for its impressive collection of Islamic architecture, is the capital city of Egypt. It is one of the most densely populated cities in the world. The history that this city has to offer is well worth the trip despite the ubiquitousness of persistent street merchants and serious air pollution.

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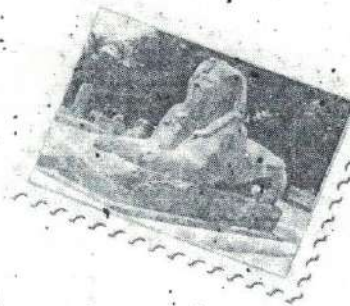


The Khan el Khalili Market

We visited the famous Khan el Khalili market, the largest market in Cairo. The merchants definitely work very hard at accosting tourists. Some will even put their merchandise impudently on tourists, just to halt them in their strides. Despite the frustrations, a visit to the Khalili market is a must to fully appreciate the vibrancy in Cairo.

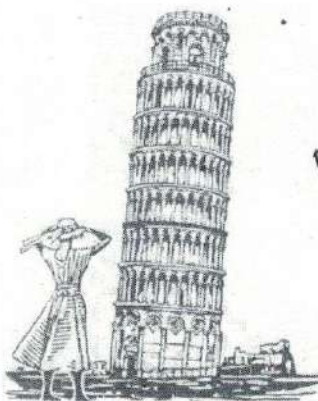
Ancient City of Memphis

To get to Memphis, we had to drive through rural Cairo. It was really great to see how the local Egyptians live day to day. Memphis is said to be the capital of Egypt in ancient times due to its strategic location between Upper and Lower Egypt. History tells us that Memphis was once one of the largest and most important cities in the ancient world - you would never be able to tell that with the state that it is in today.



Pyramids of Giza

Our final stop to see the Pyramids of Giza, the most famous landmark in Egypt and possibly the world, was a truly amazing experience. It is believed to be the burial place of Pharaoh Khufu, who was a pharaoh in the 4th dynasty. There are three known chambers, one below the bedrock and two higher up in the pyramid. It is the only pyramid in Egypt to contain both ascending and descending passageways. In order to enter the Great Pyramid, tourists have to pay an extra entrance fee. However, our guide told us that the interior is not as majestic as the exterior because there were no funds left after the structure of the pyramid was completed.



MobileTee will be offering a 18% discount for the special commemorative sets of phonecards for the first 100 visitors or visitors who sign up for any tour packages at the fair!



COME AND WIN

Visit the fair and you can stand a chance to win two return air tickets to Italy, plus 4 nights' accommodation at Villa Inn and a visit to the Leaning Tower of Pisa!

Organised by: Singapore Board for Travel Agents

For more information, log on to www.travel2015.com.sg

For each question from 21 to 28, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer.
(8 marks)

21. The last Travel Fair organised by the Singapore Board for Travel Agents was in _____.

- (1) 2010
- (2) 2011
- (3) 2012
- (4) 2013

(4)

22. Which of the following will not be a feature at Travel 2015?

- (1) Booths by overseas exhibitors
- (2) Offers on travel packages
- (3) Movies from different countries
- (4) Overseas cultural performances

(3)

23. Why is Cairo nicknamed "The City of a Thousand Minarets"?

- (1) It is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.
- (2) The street merchants are very persistent.
- (3) Its collection of Islamic architecture is impressive.
- (4) It is highly polluted.

(3)

24. How did the writer feel towards the merchants at the Khan el Khalili market?

- (1) Annoyed
- (2) Pleased
- (3) Fascinated
- (4) Shocked

(4) 1

25. The writer says 'you would never be able to tell that with the state that it's in today'. What can you infer about the current state of Memphis?

- (1) Dilapidated
- (2) Magnificent
- (3) Wealthy
- (4) Glorious

(1)

26. What is the one feature that makes the Pyramid of Giza extraordinary from other pyramids?

- (1) It contains three chambers.
- (2) It contains both ascending and descending passageways.
- (3) It is the burial place of an Egyptian pharaoh.
- (4) The interior of the pyramid is not impressive.

(2)

27. According to the advertisement, MobileTee will offer _____

- (1) lower prices on tour packages to visitors who sign up at the fair
- (2) free commemorative phonecards only to visitors who visit the fair
- (3) discounts on special phonecards to the first 100 visitors to the fair
- (4) special phonecards to the first 100 visitors who sign up for tour packages

28. Anyone who wants to book a tour package can do so by _____

- (1) logging on to the website as stated in the advertisement
- (2) contacting the Singapore Board for Travel Agents
- (3) going to the travel fair on the dates stated in the advertisement
- (4) visiting Suntec Convention Hall 401 on any day in April

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(3)

(3)

There are 10 blanks, numbered 29 to 38, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

(A) all ✓	(D) from ✓	(G) may	(K) their ✓	(N) up ✓
(B) but	(E) every	(H) must	(L) they	(P) were ✓
(C) for ✓	(F) her	(J) of ✓	(M) until	(Q) would ✓

Since at least the Middle Ages, wedding clothes have consisted of the finest clothes that a bride and groom could afford to mark the occasion (29) ~~J~~ ~~(F)~~ their nuptials. These clothes (30) ~~(A)~~ **G** have been made exclusively for them, or purchased ready-made, or hired for the occasion. Until the nineteenth century, the clothes of both the bride and groom were often coloured. Being a popular colour in early nineteenth-century women's fashions, white became a natural choice (31) ~~(C)~~ many brides. Progressively, the custom of a "white wedding" evolved (32) ~~M~~ ~~J~~ the association of a white wedding dress with a virgin bride was firmly established in the minds of many. In the nineteenth century, brides in mourning selected colours to reflect (33) ~~(K)~~ bereavement.

Practical considerations also influenced the choice of wedding clothes. In the early nineteenth century, a bride (34) ~~()~~ **Q** appear at subsequent social functions in her wedding finery so the wedding gown was often styled as an evening dress. Later in the century, when afternoon dresses (35) ~~(P)~~ worn for the ceremony, a second dress - with a bodice appropriate for evening wear - was sometimes made. Less prosperous brides often chose coloured wedding dresses which could double (36) ~~(M)~~ as "best dress". Meanwhile, women in the highest social circles (37) ~~H~~ ~~(Q)~~ ensure their wedding dresses were proper for the post-nuptial court presentation. For brides in the later twentieth century, long wedding dresses have become a fantasy garment, replete with symbolic associations and far removed (38) ~~(D)~~ everyday dress. As such, they are intended to be worn once only.

Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (12 marks)

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(39) wealthy

Charles Robert Darwin was born in 1809 in England into a wellthee and well-connected family.

(40) leading

His paternal grandfather was Erasmus Darwin, one of the lead intellectuals of 18th century

(41) pursue

England. Darwin initially planned to pursuit a medical career. However, in 1831, he joined a five

(42) expedition

year scientific expedeesion on the survey ship HMS Beagle. At this time, most Europeans

(43) was

believed that the world is created by God in seven days as described in the bible. On the

voyage, Darwin read Lyell's 'Principles of Geology' which suggested that the fossils found in

(44) evidence

rocks were actually eviddence of animals which had lived millions of years ago. Lyell's

(45) reinforced

argument was reinfaled in Darwin's mind by the rich variety of animal life and the geological

features he saw during his voyage. The breakthrough in his ideas came when he set foot on

the Galapagos Islands. Darwin noticed that certain types of organisms existed only in certain

(46) for through

areas and that many organisms had gone by changes that made it easier for them to survive in

(47) environment

certain anviromens. On his return to England in 1836, Darwin proposed a theory of evolution

(48) controversial

and published his work. However, his book was extremely kontrovercial. Darwin was also

(49) vehementally X

(50) acceptance

vehement attacked, particularly by the Church. However, his ideas soon gained accepted and

became the new orthodoxy.

Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (15 marks)

He turned and left the room. After walking the streets of Denver for the entire night, he arrived (51) home just after sunrise. As he passed (52) by the library, he saw the portrait that Rasol Thallward had (53) of him. He gaped at it in surprise (54) and walked on into his bedroom. He (55) took his coat off and stood (56) to his bed. A few moments later, he returned to the (57) painting and looked at it closely. In the faint light, the face (58) to have transformed a little. Now, the mouth looked malevolent. It was unquestionably bizarre.

He walked to the (59) window and opened the curtains. The light changed the room (60) but the face stayed the same. In fact, the sunlight made the mouth look even (61) worse.

Going back (62) to his bedroom, he discovered a small mirror that had been a (63) gift from Lord Henry. He looked at his real face and saw no sign of cruelty. What did it signify?

He threw himself into a (64) chair and began to ponder. Suddenly he (65) remembered what he had said in Rasol Thallward's house the day the picture had been completed. He had asked for the painting to grow old so that he himself could remain young.

For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

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66. We were very relieved that the missing hikers were rescued yesterday.

Much to our relief, the missing hikers were rescued
yesterday.

67. The refreshments had been prepared before the guest-of-honour arrived.

By the time the guest-of-honour arrived, the refreshments
had been prepared.

68. Pamela saw her neighbours exercising. She was jogging in the park.

While jogging in the park, Pamela saw her neighbours
exercising.

69. To be fluent in Mandarin, you need to speak it frequently.

Without speaking Mandarin frequently, will not be
fluent in it.

70. She was compelled to tell the truth although she resisted.

She was compelled to tell the truth despite her
resistance.

Read this passage and answer questions 71 to 80. (20 marks)

Q71

We were six teenagers on a week-long service mission to restore the homes of the less privileged living in the Appalachian mountains. The area appeared to contradict itself, for it held so much magnificence yet housed so much poverty. Perhaps we hailed ourselves as being able to serve those in need; I do not think we ever conjured up what we could benefit from. It would perhaps be more valuable than any services we could render.

5

Our white van meandered through the broken West Virginia landscape and pulled up alongside John's avocado-coloured house. As the doors opened, we poured out with hammers in hand, prepared to start our routine. We interchanged jobs as we basked in the southern sun; some of us scraped and painted windows, while others stained the deck or mended the roof. All the while, John, a retiree, sat in a lawn chair observing us - the kindest of old men, only too apologetic that he could not toil alongside with us on the ladders. We passed the time with private jokes and songs, truly enjoying ourselves despite the monotony of painting window after window as John just silently observed with a cane in hand to support himself in case he needed to get up.

10

As the clock neared noon, we took our lunch break in the shelter of a small tree in John's front yard. Sam, our moderator, planted John's chair beside us and announced that since he was keen to assist in any way possible, John would lead us in a before-meal prayer. He saw our weary faces and heard the growls from our stomachs. He kept it succinct and we started digging into our food.

15

"Let me tell you a story..." he then began. From the pit of his modest heart, he began to unravel his eighty-some-odd years for us. He was a school teacher who had a dog named Pretty-Face. He told of old hunting expeditions in the mountains where his life was almost lost to a bear, and he talked of subduing a rattlesnake; even showing us the rattles.

20

Then his cavernous eyes just wandered off as if he was no longer talking for our benefit, but more for his own. He described that day his dog died, as fat tears rolled down his weathered cheeks and he clasped the end of his cane. He recalled her faithfulness to the end as with one last thump of the tail, looking up at him, Pretty-Face passed on. He remembered his wife gazing up at him much the same way seconds before her demise.

25

He always tenderly called his wife 'Mama', and he told of how she had always stayed up until the wee hours of the morning to bake the bread for the next day while he, often exhausted from a long day of teaching or hunting, would retire to bed. "Why hadn't I taken the extra time to stay up with her?" he said in a distant voice as his eyes gazed beyond us. "Why couldn't I do so? Why?"

30

I remembered how intensely those words rang inside of me. Here was a man brimming with wisdom and reflections on his life, telling me to make the most of mine, to take the extra time with those I love. I was motivated; I was mesmerised by this amazing old man whom I had thought I was helping. John's house was not a workplace at all; it was a classroom.

35

13/20

71. What does the word 'it' (line 5) refer to? [1 m]

A week-long service mission to restore the homes of the less privileged living in the Appalachian mountains.

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72. Which sentence in Paragraph 2 tells us that it was not the first time the writer and her friends were helping the less fortunate? [1 m]

We interchanged jobs as we basked in the southern sun; some of us scraped and painted windows, while others stained the decks or mended the roof.

73. List the three tasks that the writer and her friends had to do at John's house. [3 m]

1. scraped and painted windows
2. stained the decks
3. mended the roof.

74. Explain clearly why John was unable to toil alongside the writer and her friends. [2 m]

Jane was a retiree and an elderly who needed a cane to support himself, which made

75. State two observations of the writer and her friends that John had during the before-meal prayer. How did John show consideration for them? [3 m]

Observations of the writer and her friends	their weary faces
	growls from their stomachs
Gesture by John which showed consideration for them	

76. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story. [1 m]

3 John shared stories of his life.
 2 They had lunch.
 1 The writer and her friends started work at John's house.

77. What was John working as before he retired, and what did he used to like to do during his free time? [2 m]

She had always stayed up until the wee hours of the morning to bake the bread for the next day while he often exhausted from a long day of teaching or hunting would retire to bed. X

78. Explain what John meant when he said he could not 'do so' (line 33). [2 m]

He could not stay up with his wife during the night as he was often too tired from teaching or hunting during the day. -1

79. Explain clearly why the writer regarded John's home as a classroom. [2 m]

She learned valuable life lessons from him. what? X

80. Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [3 m]

	True/ False	Reason
The writer and her friends were bored of the monotony of painting window after window.	False	They truly enjoyed themselves despite the monotony. ✓
John was a man of few words.	False	He shared many stories and reflections about his past. ✓
John had some regrets in his life.	True	He regretted not staying up with his wife to talk to her. ✓